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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 18 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement issued on 15 May 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan in connection with the tests of nuclear devices in India.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 64 and 81, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alisher VOHIDOV
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Uzbekistan to the
United Nations

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Annex

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 15 May 1998

Uzbekistan received with great perplexity and concern the news that India had conducted a series of underground nuclear tests. It is particularly disturbing to see that these tests were conducted in one of the most densely populated areas of the world, in the immediate vicinity of the southern borders of the States of Central Asia.

These actions are occurring at a time when the international community is making systematic efforts to ban the manufacture and proliferation of nuclear weapons on the threshold of the twenty-first century.

The nuclear tests carried out in India may trigger an escalation of the arms race in southern Asia, which will have catastrophic and unforeseeable consequences for security and stability not only in the region but in the entire world.

Uzbekistan considers that the tremendous economic and financial resources which are being devoted to the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction would be better used to further the economic and social development of countries in the region.

Since it has taken the initiative in creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia and condemns the carrying out by India of nuclear tests, Uzbekistan declares itself resolutely opposed to the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the world. The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan urges India to take the necessary steps to adhere promptly to the treaties concerning the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests.